

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SSM-03 ACDA-12 AID-05
HA-05 EB-08 /124 W
-----089113 281400Z /45

P 281245Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7816
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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STATE PLEASE PASS AID

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: MARR PORG LE IS
SUBJ: UNIFIL FINANCING RESOLUTION

REF: USUN 1625

1. WE NOTE ISRAEL (HERZOG) COMMENTS (PARA 6, REFTTEL), THAT ONLY
500 HOMES WERE DAMAGED IN SOUTH LEBANON AND 300 OF THEM HAD BEEN
OR WERE BEING RESTORED. GOL HAS YET TO COMPLETE DAMAGE ASSESS-
MENT OF SOUTH. TEAMS DISPATCHED ON APRIL 24 TO TWO SECTORS ONLY
OF SOUTH (AREAS AROUND BINT JBEIL IN SAME DISTRICT AND KNISSE,
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TYRE DISTRICT) WILL RETURN APRIL 29.

2. ON APRIL 25, UNHCR REG REP AND DEPUTY (LEBANESE FROM SIDON)
TRAVELED SOUTH BANK OF LITANI RIVER EAST AND THEN SOUTH TO MAIN
ROUTE INTO BINT JBEIL. FROM THERE THEY PROCEEDED ALONG BORDER TO
NAQUORA AND BACK TO TYRE ALONG COAST. TRAVERSING BY ACTUAL COUNT
25 VILLAGES, ESTIMATE OF DWELLINGS TOTALLY DESTROYED WAS 1,250

AND OVER 3,000 DAMAGED TO LESSER DEGREES. ONLY THREE VILLAGES UNTOUCHED. VIRTUALLY ALL ELECTRICAL LINES ARE DOWN AND WATER SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED TO WELLS, SOME OF WHICH REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN POLLUTED (ALTHOUGH NOT CLEAR BY WHOM). (COMMENT: UNHCR STRESSES FACT THAT DATES OF DAMAGE TO DWELLINGS IMPOSSIBLE TO FIX. WE WONDER WHAT SYSTEM ISRAELIS USED TO MAKE THEIR ASSESSMENT.) ONLY EVIDENCE OF REBUILDING WAS ONE SHOP IN BINT JBEIL WHERE MINOR BRICK/MORTAR WORK UNDERWAY.

3. USING TENTATIVE GOL GUIDELINES UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR HOUSING REPAIRS (LL 10,000 GRANT FOR REBUILDING; LL 5,000 FOR REPAIRS), UNHCR ESTIMATES COST AT NEARLY \$10 MILLION. THIS PRODUCES ROUGH AVERAGE OF \$400,000/VILLAGE. IN ABBASSIYE, IDF LEFT BEHIND 21 PRE-FABS AND 10 IN GHANDOURIYE.

4. MISSION REPORTED ON APRIL 26 THAT 45,000 AND POSSIBLY AS MANY AS 70,000 PERSONS MAY HAVE RETURNED TO SOUTH. GOL MILITARY COORDINATOR CONFIRMED ON APRIL 27 THAT 5,188 FAMILIES HAVE RETURNED UNDER OFFICIAL AUSPICES (TIMES 6/FAMILY EQUAL 31,128) OF WHICH 50 PERCENT WENT TO TYRE DISTRICT AND 20 PERCENT TO BINT JBEIL (REMAINDER TO NABATIYE AND MARJAYOUN). NO ACCURATE COUNT EXISTS ON NUMBERS WHO HAVE RETURNED BY OWN DEVICES. (COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW ORIGIN OF "60,000 REFUGEES FROM AREA SOUTH OF LITANI": USED BY HERZOG, BUT IT IS MUCH TOO LOW. MISSION HAS NO ACCURATE COUNT NOR DOES GOL, BUT ESTIMATES RANGE AS HIGH AS 200,000. ANY FIGURE DEPENDS, OF COURSE, ON WHAT "SOUTH OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LITANI" MEANS ALONG WITH WHOLE HOST OF OTHER FACTORS THAT MAKE NUMBERS DEBATE AN ENDLESS ONE. CONSIDERING THAT IDF HAS CHECKED NEARLY ALL RETURNEES BACK IN, "30,000" MAY BE CORRECT AS OF DATE GIVEN TO AMB. HERZOG. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT IDF HAS ANY MORE ACCURATE FIGURE ON THOSE WHO LEFT THAN ANYONE ELSE.)

DECONTROLLED FOLLOWING 10/27/78.
PARKER

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NNN

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